

Application No. 10/808,994  
Amendment Dated December 20, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of November 20, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The convertible snow shoveling device of claim 23 25 further comprising a hand grip on each handle disposed at a location distal from the first and second shovel blades.

25. (Currently Amended) The convertible snow shoveling device of claim 23, A convertible snow shoveling device comprising:

a first shovel blade having an upper edge portion, a lower edge portion, and opposite substantially parallel side edge portions;

a first elongated handle coupled to and projecting from the first shovel blade in a direction substantially parallel to said side edge portions;

a second shovel blade having an upper edge portion, a lower edge portion, and opposite substantially parallel side edge portions;

a second elongated handle coupled to and projecting from the second shovel blade in a direction substantially parallel to said side edge portions;

at least one male connection part disposed between said upper and lower edge portions and along a side edge portion of the first shovel blade, and said male connection part extending longitudinally in a direction substantially parallel to the side edge portion of said first shovel blade; and

at least one female connection part disposed between said upper and lower edge portions and along a side edge portion of the second shovel blade, and said female connection part extending longitudinally in a direction substantially parallel to the side edge portion of said second shovel blade, wherein the at least one female connection part is similarly sized and shaped to slidably receive the at least one male connection part along a

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line of direction that is substantially transverse to the lower edge portion of the second shovel blade to releasably couple the first and second shovel blades together by sliding the shovel blades in a direction parallel to the side edge portions, whereby the at least one male and female connection parts, by themselves, define a sliding self-interlock for preventing exit of the male connection part from the female connection part.

wherein the male connection part comprises a longitudinally extending post disposed along the edge portion of the first shovel blade and the female connection part comprises a longitudinally extending slotted tube disposed along the edge portion of the second shovel blade, the tube having a closed end portion engageable with the post for preventing sliding exit of the post therefrom.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The convertible snow shoveling device of claim 26 28 further comprising a hand grip on the handle disposed at a location distal from the shovel blade.

28. (Currently Amended) The convertible snow shoveling device of claim 26, A convertible snow shoveling device comprising:

a shovel blade having an upper edge portion, a lower edge portion and opposite substantially parallel side edge portions;

an elongated handle coupled to and projecting from the shovel blade in a direction substantially parallel to said side edge portions;

at least one male connection part disposed between said upper and lower edge portions along one side edge portion of the shovel blade, and said male connection part extending longitudinally in a direction substantially parallel to said one side edge portion; and

at least one complementary female connection part disposed between said upper and lower edge portions along the other side edge portion of the shovel blade and said female connection part extending longitudinally in a direction substantially parallel to

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said other side edge portion, wherein the at least one female connection part is similarly sized and shaped slidably to receive the at least one male connection part along a line of direction that is substantially transverse to the lower edge portion of the shovel blade so that a snow shoveling device with a shovel blade provided with opposite side edge portions having like male and female connection parts may be releasably coupled thereto, by sliding the shovel blades in a direction parallel to the side edge portions.

whereby the at least one male and female connection parts, by themselves, define a sliding self-interlock for preventing exit of the male connecting part from the female connection part.

wherein the male connection part comprises a longitudinally extending post disposed along the said one edge portion of the shovel blade and the female connection part comprises a longitudinally extending slotted tube disposed along the said other edge portion of the shovel blade, the tube having a closed end portion engageable with the post for preventing sliding exit of the post.